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M. Avenol, still operated with a staff of about 100 as compared to over 600 in peacetime. All departments and services still worked, if only in skeleton.

and war had made many of the league's problems, economics, health, child welfare, the drug traffic, refugees, more important than ever. In addition the economic and financial department by the autumn had a new operating centre at Princeton, N.J.

The supervisory commission stressed the wide scope there still was for the league in technical, social and humanitarian activities, but in view of the facts decided to halve the normal league budget. War and enemy occupation had made the situation of several countries uncertain. Temporary suspension of contributions accordingly was sanctioned for Albania, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway and Poland. The contributions of China, Finland, France and Holland were halved. The league thus could, it was expected, count on an income of about £500,000, of which one-third goes to the International Labour organization. In case of unforeseen events the reserves established by previous wise financing could be drawn on. But prompt, regular payment by league members was, the commission reported, the best way in which to support the league. Finance was the key to the future. (See also MANDATES; PACIFISM; REFUGEES.) (M. F.E.)

"Lease-Lend" Bill (H. R. 1776): see DEFENCE, NATIONAL; INTERNATIONAL LAW.

**Leather.** An advisory organization enumerated, with reference particularly to the leather industry of the United States, eight objectives as most worthy of research. These were the devising of more rapid tannages for heavy leathers, the development of leather dyeing formulas capable of a more uniform and exact reproduction of colours, a chemical or process that would eliminate iron from solutions of tanning materials, a means to prevent discolouration of leather on exposure to light, improvement in the washability of leather gloves, a material to combat greasy spew that affects certain types of leather, a satisfactory process for tannage of white leather and measures to increase the weight, or heft, of leather.

Concerning the foregoing subject, British research workers reported a white leather made with formaldehyde without preparatory tannage with another material. The leather is full and has a strong grain. It is washable with soap and water and does not become tender upon storage, as was found to be true with former formaldehyde tannages.

It was recommended that cleaners for white shoe leathers should be fortified with lubricating oils. Sulphonated coco-nut oil was proposed with the suggestion that a small bottle of it be furnished with each pair of shoes, with instructions for its application after every ten cleanings.

The removal of chromium from chrome-tanned leather, a treatment applied frequently to scrap leather in making glue, can be done in a variety of ways. Among the acid dechroming agents, the organic acids are more effective than the inorganic. Salts of these acids whose negative ions are good penetrating agents likewise dechrome. Alkaline and alkaline-oxidizing agents, such as borax, sodium bicarbonate, sodium hydroxide, triethanolamine and sodium perborate, also exert a pronounced dechroming action.

To promote research in the production of leathers of greater resistance to atmospheric decay, a standardized gas chamber for accelerated ageing was developed. The unique feature of this apparatus is that the pollution of the atmosphere within it is produced and controlled through the burning of a fuel comprising methyl alcohol containing known concentrates of *n*-amyl sulphite.

Experimental work indicated that the retanning of vegetable-tanned leather with alum imparts to the leather exceptional resistance to acid rot. Use of alum salts appeared to possess some advantages over the similar use of chromium compounds since alum does not produce the bluish to greenish undertones often resulting from chrome.

Appreciable attention was given to the production of a pigskin leather of sufficient durability, resistance to tearing and pliability to serve for shoe uppers. Promising developments in this direction were attributed primarily to a new method of removing the grease from the skins, necessary before they can be tanned.

Estimated Number of Staple Hides and Skins Tanned  
(000's omitted)

	1929	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
WORLD						
Cattle hides . . . . .	101,614	105,223	104,874	101,515	103,142	100,650
Calf and kipskins . . . .	74,050	75,012	74,166	72,005	74,545	71,321
Goat and kidskins . . . .	87,064	89,122	83,557	78,893	80,276	75,112
Sheep and lambskins . . .	90,211	92,729	92,213	88,047	92,887	84,555
UNITED STATES						
Cattle hides . . . . .	19,146	22,628	22,875	19,410	22,100	21,020
Calf and kipskins . . . .	15,364	13,127	12,440	12,500	14,070	11,470
Goat and kidskins . . . .	55,686	47,150	46,000	32,783	40,800	38,400
Sheep and lambskins . . .	38,985	37,042	34,235	28,050	30,422	24,000
GERMANY						
Cattle hides . . . . .	9,116	9,610	9,817	9,750	9,814	9,175
Calf and kipskins . . . .	10,317	12,439	13,006	12,187	11,116	9,897
Goat and kidskins . . . .	8,512	7,527	8,313	6,450	7,087	5,435
Sheep and lambskins . . .	10,024	10,608	10,411	9,865	8,955	7,625
UNITED KINGDOM						
Cattle hides . . . . .	10,612	11,063	11,413	10,060	10,727	11,005
Calf and kipskins . . . .	7,310	6,918	7,617	7,800	8,144	7,775
Goat and kidskins . . . .	8,510	12,013	13,005	13,195	12,610	10,670
Sheep and lambskins . . .	9,115	7,997	8,012	8,610	8,855	7,820
FRANCE						
Cattle hides . . . . .	9,007	6,159	7,248	7,500	7,820	6,005
Calf and kipskins . . . .	7,689	7,005	7,512	7,895	6,055	7,312
Goat and kidskins . . . .	11,992	7,165	7,341	8,210	9,177	6,117
Sheep and lambskins . . .	12,055	10,815	11,417	11,612	12,515	9,415

War activity resulted in marked changes in world production and international trade in leather during 1940. Many of the important European leather producing centres were partially or entirely destroyed, while others were invaded and their raw materials and finished products removed as spoils of war. The output of leather in Europe was believed to have been considerably above normal in the first half of 1940 but to have declined sharply in the following six months as a result of war activity.

In virtually all countries engaged in fighting and in most of the others where military preparedness was in full sway, there were efforts to increase or maintain production of heavy leathers, even at the expense of reduced output of the light varieties. Where domestic supplies of suitable hides were not sufficient and foreign stocks could not be obtained readily, the use of heavy leathers was restricted generally to the armed or defence forces and in all of the countries at war there were regulations governing the use of leather.

Because of the increased demand for military leather in some countries and the difficulty of obtaining sufficient supplies for civilian use, mainly in Germany and Italy, authorities in these areas fostered the production of suitable substitutes. With the use of genuine leather restricted by regulations, consumers found it necessary to use the substitutes and producers benefited from the opportunity of accomplishing considerable research for improved products at minimum costs. Many different types of leather substitutes were developed in Europe since the middle of 1939 and new materials continued to appear on the market regularly.

One of the important aftereffects of the war of 1914-18 was the development of tanning industries in many countries that previously obtained almost all their requirements from foreign sources. Such areas were forced to develop domestic tanning industries

because war conditions did not enable them to import the desired quantities and varieties of leather.

The indications were that the war of 1939 would result in the tanning of a much wider range of leathers in many countries for the same reasons. The fact that so many of the important European tanning centres suffered from the effects of this war and would not be in a position to operate again for many years favoured this opinion. (R. W. F.; J. G. Sc.)

**Lebanon:** see FRENCH COLONIAL EMPIRE.

**Leeward Islands:** see WEST INDIES, BRITISH.

**Legislation. Federal.**—Events abroad vividly pointed out the necessity for preparedness. In response to the threat of war congress enacted legislation designed to enlist man power, industry and wealth.

*Selective Training and Service Act.*—See SELECTIVE SERVICE.

*Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act; National Guard Act.*—

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief act of 1940 was passed to protect the economic position of the conscript by certain moratory provisions, suspending the enforcement of civil liabilities in certain cases to enable persons engaged in the military service of the United States to devote their entire time to the defence and needs of the nation. The most important provisions are designed to mitigate the economic hardships due to loss of jobs. Re-employment provisions require that the conscript receive a guaranty that his job will be restored to him with reparation for any loss caused by the employer's unlawful refusal to rehire him on his return. The statute does not, however, require re-employment where it is "impossible or unreasonable." Thus for example, reinstatement would hardly be obligatory in the case of necessary reduction in employment or discontinuance of the business.

The benefits of insurance shall apply to any person in military service who is the holder of a policy of life insurance, when such holder shall apply for such benefits on a form prepared in accordance with regulations which shall be prescribed by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. The benefits of this act shall

be available to any person in military service in respect of contracts of insurance in force under their terms up to but not exceeding a face value of \$5,000, irrespective of the number of policies held by such person whether in one or more companies, when such contracts were made and a premium was paid thereon before the date of approval of this act or not less than 30 days before entry into the military service. In no event, however, shall the provisions of this article apply to any policy on which premiums are due and unpaid for a period of more than one year at the time when application for the benefits of this article is made or in respect of any policy on which there is outstanding a policy loan or other indebtedness equal to or greater than 50% of the cash surrender value of the policy.

The provisions of this section shall apply when any taxes or assessments, whether general or special, falling due during the period of military service in respect to real property owned and occupied for dwelling, agricultural, or business purposes by a person in military service, or his dependents at the commencement of his period of military service and still so occupied by his dependents or employees, are not paid.

*Nationality Act.*—This act codifies all the laws of the United States dealing with citizenship, nationalization and expatriation and amends many of the previous laws concerning national defence and subversive activities.

Persons who served honourably in the army, navy or marine corps or coast guard for an aggregate of three years are relieved from complying with the five-year period of residence, declaration of intention, certificate of arrival and residence within the jurisdiction of the naturalization court.

For the commission of any act of treason, the penalty is loss of citizenship, but only after conviction by a court martial or a court of competent jurisdiction. Citizenship may also be lost by obtaining naturalization in a foreign state, taking an oath of allegiance to a foreign state, serving in a foreign military force when such service may only be rendered by its nationals, or voting in a foreign political election. Citizenship may further be lost by a naturalized citizen who resided for two years in a foreign state, of which he was a national, or where he was born, if he acquired, through such residence, the foreign nationality, or for three years otherwise. In the case of other foreign coun-

FOR HIS SUPPORT of the U.S. draft bill, Sen. Claude Pepper of Florida drew down the wrath of a group of women anticonscriptionists who proceeded to hang him in effigy Aug. 21, 1940, on the capitol lawn

